REMARKS

The present application was filed on May 2, 2000, with claims 1-30. Claims 1, 10, 11, 20, 21 and 30 are the independent claims. Claims 1-30 remain pending.

Claims 1-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 and 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as being directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Claims 1, 10, 11, 20, 21 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by Yoshioka et al., "Signal Separation Method Using ICA," IEEE SMC '99 Conference Proceedings, Vol. 1, pp. 549-552 (hereinafter "Yoshioka").

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the amendments above and the remarks below.

Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 10, 11, 20, 21 and 30 and cancelled dependent claims 3, 13 and 23 from further consideration in this application. Applicants are not conceding in this application that those claims are not patentable over the art cited by the Examiner, as the present claim amendments and cancellations are only for facilitating expeditious prosecution of the allowable subject matter noted by the examiner. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue these and other claims in one or more continuations and/or divisional patent applications.

In response to the §101 and §112 rejections, Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 10, 11, 20, 21 and 30 to clarify that the data mining is performed to detect one or more persons exhibiting deviant behavior within a population represented as a high dimensional data set. Support for this amendment may be found in the specification at, for example, page 1, lines 19-22. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims, as amended, are limited to the transformation of real world data rather than the manipulation of abstract ideas. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims, as amended, are directed to statutory subject matter.

In response to the §102 rejections, Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 10, 11, 20, 21 and 30 to include limitations similar to those found in dependent claims 3, 13 and 23, respectively, each of which is now cancelled. Each of these independent claims, as amended, now includes a limitation wherein data that is sparse in density or has an abnormally low presence is quantified by a sparsity coefficient measure. Yoshioka fails to teach or suggest any use of a sparsity coefficient measure.

In view of the above, Applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully request withdrawal of the pending rejections and objections.

Respectfully submitted,

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